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# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge  
P. O. Box 127  
Cold Bay, Alaska 99571



## MEMORANDUM

June 20, 2005

To: Files

Thru: Acting Chief of Refuges, Refuges & Wildlife  
Anchorage, AK *Sharon N. Janis*

From: Refuge Manager, Izembek NWR (74520)  
Cold Bay, AK

Subject: Second change request to King Cove Road plans and the existing 22 (g) Compatibility Determination

This memorandum to the files pertains to the second letter from PND Incorporated (dated May 6, 2005 and received on May 18, 2005) requesting temporary modifications to changes in the King Cove Road Access concerning the construction of temporary turnouts in Segment 3B. A compatibility determination of the Section 22(g) lands planned for use in the Aleutians East Borough King Cove Access Project was completed on November 17, 2003. This compatibility determination was completed with the following information:

The project would consist of a 5.6 mile long road with a 12 foot wide travel lane, an average toe to toe road footprint of 53.2 feet for a total footprint of 29.5 acres. Vehicle turnouts would be spaced approximately every 1,000 feet. Each turnout would be about 75 feet long and 10 feet wide with at foot print of 750 square feet (0.02 acres).

The current request is that temporary turnouts be allowed between the permanent turnouts to facilitate the safety of gravel trucks during the construction phase. The contractor is concerned about gravel trucks backing the entire length (1,000 feet) between permanent turnouts. Their concern is that during backing up operations there is an increased chance of accidentally backing off the road which could cause injury to an employee or damage to the environment.

The temporary turnouts would be constructed in areas that would minimize impacts and could be removed then restored into the final road design. Plans are to place geotextiles over the existing native materials then fill/gravel would be placed on top. The size of the temporary turnouts would be smaller than the permanent turnouts (50 feet x 11 feet) and they would be placed at approximately 500 feet from existing permanent turnouts. At the end of the construction phase the temporary turnout material and the geotextile material will be removed. Existing vegetation will be evaluated and with any ground damage an approved protect seed mixture will be applied to the area. This would only affect the 3B segment of the road where a pioneer road will not be available. It is expected that the turnouts will be reclaimed by

These proposed changes would occur on King Cove Corporation, ANCSA 22(g) surface estate lands (surface landowner). The subsurface lands are owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the surface lands are still subject to the laws and regulations governing the use and development of the area as it was originally a refuge prior to ANILCA and ANSCA (established in 1960). The closest adjacent Refuge lands would be between 0.5 mile and 1.5 miles from the project site (no change from original 22(g) compatibility determination). After a review of these proposed changes and the existing compatibility determination, it is determined that these changes will not substantially change the project and therefore will not require a revised compatibility determination. The finding of the original compatibility determination would still be applicable: "Based on these project modifications, the construction and operation impacts to adjacent Refuge lands and waters from/to noise, soils, water quality, terrestrial and wetland habitats, fish and wildlife have been determined to be none to negligible".

These changes must comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (no fill in wetlands or stream corridors), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit 40CFR Part 122 (Clean Water Act Section 319), the Fish and Wildlife Protection Plan for the project, Cultural Resource Regulations (including Notification of the State Historic Preservation Officer if construction of turnouts have the potential to impact cultural resources) and stipulations of the original compatibility determination including revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species.

Any other changes to these plans, not specifically listed in the above memorandum, would require a reevaluation of the 22 (g) compatibility determination.

Sandra M. Siekaniec